

## Key to Species.

- Tail not markedly distichous, its hairs dark at their bases.
- Large; colour above deep black . . . . . *R. gigantea*.
- Smaller; colour above lightish, especially across the centre of the back . . . . . *R. bicolor*.
- Tail markedly distichous, with light bases to the hairs.
- All the hairs on the back with light subterminal annulations.
- Feet light.
- Colour of upperside "café-au-lait."
- Belly yellowish orange . . . . . *R. affinis aureiventer*.
- Belly white . . . . . *R. affinis typicus*.
- Colour of upperside uniform grizzled amber-brown . . . . . *R. ephippium sirhassen-*
- Feet black.
- Large; underparts deep orange . . . . . *R. eph. bunguranensis*.
- Smaller; underparts yellow . . . . . *R. eph. nanogigas*.
- Hairs along the centre of back without annulations, forming dark medio-dorsal tract.
- Hairs on the sides of body with annulations.
- General colour grey . . . . . *R. eph. sandakanensis*.
- General colour brown . . . . . *R. eph. baramensis*.
- Hairs on the sides of the body without annulations, especially anteriorly.
- Colour of flanks deep rufous . . . . . *R. eph. typica*.

## LXV.—A new Skunk from Peru.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

*Conepatus inca*, sp. n.

Size medium. Fur long, coarse, and close; underfur abundant. White markings much reduced, consisting only of a narrow ( $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide) band on each side, joined on the occiput and running back only as far as the shoulders, or at most to middle of the back, where they come to an end. Tail black, an intermixture of white hairs at its tip.

Skull proportions as shown by the measurements below. Zygomata less widely expanded than in *C. mapurito*. Last upper molar decidedly larger than in *C. zorilla*.

Dimensions of the type (an adult female, measured by collector in the flesh):—

Head and body 350 millim.; tail 210; hind foot (s. n.) 65; ear 28.

Skull: greatest length in middle line 75.5; basal length 66.4; greatest breadth 44; intertemporal breadth 20; greatest posterior breadth 38; palate length from gnathion 32.4;

palate breadth outside  $m.^1$  30; greatest diameter of  $m.^1$  10.5; length of  $m._1$  10.

A male skull has a basal length of 70 millim. and a zygomatic breadth of 49 millim.

*Hab.* of type Callao, Peru, sea-level. Other specimens from Surco, on the Cordillera behind Lima, alt. 2050 metres.

*Type.* Female. B.M. no. 0. 5. 7. 34. Original number 802. Collected 15th January, 1900, by Mr. P. O. Simons. Five specimens examined. Native name "Añas."

By this fine capture Mr. Simons has helped to elucidate the question as to what are the skunks referred to by Tschudi in his 'Fauna Peruana' \*.

In that work three species are described:—" *Mephitis mapurito*, Less., *M. furcata*, Wagn., and *M. amazonica*, Licht." The first of these is said to be "an der Küste sehr gemein," and from the description there can be no doubt that Tschudi's animal was *C. inca*, which Mr. Simons has sent both from the coast at Callao and from the Sierra behind. The true *C. mapurito* is quite a different species which occurs at Bogota and north-westwards into Central America.

By "*M. furcata*" Tschudi apparently means the Chilean species, which has been commonly known as *C. chilensis*, was most unnecessarily renamed *furcata* by Wagner †, but whose proper name appears to be *C. chinga*, Molina ‡. As yet, however, I have seen no Peruvian skunks referable to *C. chinga*, but it may prove to occur in the southern parts of the country, unless Tschudi has mistaken *C. quitensis*, Humb., for it.

I am unable at present to identify Tschudi's "*M. amazonica*, Licht.," but the "drei-streifige *Mephitis*," of which he was told as inhabiting the Department of Junin, will very probably prove to be the remarkably coloured *Conepatus rex*, Thos., described from Sahama, Bolivia §.

It is curious to notice the great difference in the thickness of the fur between *C. inca* and *C. zorilla*, the skunk of the desert on the north-west coast of Peru. Tschudi speaks of *C. mapurito* as not being found on the coast in the "nördlichen heisseren Theile des Landes," and this greater heat of that region is well exemplified by the thin sparse coat of *C. zorilla* as compared with the thick one of the present species.

\* Mamm. p. 112 (1845).

† Schr. Saug. Supp. ii. p. 192 (1841).

‡ *Viverra chinga*, Molina, Sagg. Stor. Nat. Chili, pp. 288 & 342 (1782).

§ Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) i. p. 278 (1898).